



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

2017

MORE THAN SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) creates lasting connections between the United States and countries of the world, supporting America's global competitiveness and advancing U.S. foreign policy priorities. ECA builds networks through academic, professional, youth, sports, cultural, and private exchanges, as well as through cultural heritage preservation.

Exchange programs connect, engage, and inspire people. Barriers that often divide us, like politics, language, ethnicity, religion, and geography, break down. Participants develop new skills, explore ways to create positive change in their communities, and establish the trust needed for a more secure, prosperous, democratic and just world.

ECA advances twenty-first century priorities, including entrepreneurship, youth outreach, education, preventing violent extremism, and democratic values.

W: exchanges.state.gov T: @ECAatState I: @ExchangeOurWorld

**600,000+
HOURS**

VOLUNTEERED EACH
YEAR BY AMERICANS
FOR EXCHANGE
PROGRAMS



1940

**DR. AURELIO ESPINOSA
POLÍT, S.J.**

ECUADORIAN PROFESSOR
WAS THE FIRST DOS-
SPONSORED EXCHANGE
PARTICIPANT

**55,000+
PARTICIPANTS**

ARE ON EXCHANGE
PROGRAMS FUNDED
BY THE STATE
DEPARTMENT ANNUALLY



1961

FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACT

SOLIDIFIED THE ROLE
OF THE U.S. GOVERN-
MENT IN IMPLEMENTING
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

**NOTABLE
ECA ALUMNI**

CURRENT AND FORMER

565

HEADS OF FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS

105

PULITZER PRIZE
WINNERS

82

NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

89

MEMBERS OF THE
U.S. CONGRESS

26

HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS

58

AMBASSADORS TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

**50
STATES**

HOST ECA PARTICI-
PANTS, ALL OF WHOM
SUPPORT THE LOCAL
ECONOMY DURING
THEIR STAY



**10,000+
AMERICAN**

EXCHANGE
PARTICIPANTS TRAVEL
ABROAD EACH YEAR

